



Jan 20, 2023

FOIA REQUEST
EPA Inspector General

Dear FOIA Officer:

Pursuant to the federal Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. § 552, I request:

A copy of a complete list of all investigations and audits currently being conducted by the EPA Office of Inspector General. If this request has been directed to the wrong office, please refer it to the correct office.

I would like to receive the information in the following format: electronic.

I am available to discuss the scope of the request and any questions by phone (718-877-5236) or email (sharon.lerner@propublica.org).

As a representative of the news media I am only required to pay for the direct cost of duplication after the first 100 pages. This information is being sought on behalf of ProPublica, an independent, non-profit news organization, for dissemination to the general public.

The subject of this request concerns the operations or activities of the government and will likely contribute to an understanding of government operations. The lists of audits and investigations will reflect the behavior of government officials. I seek it because of its value to the public and ability to increase the public's understanding of government operations.

Please waive any applicable fees. Release of the information is in the public interest because it will contribute significantly to public understanding of government operations and activities. As a non-profit journalistic entity, ProPublica does not have the same commercial interests of other news organizations.

If my request is denied in whole or part, I ask that you justify all deletions by reference to specific exemptions of the Act. I will also expect you to release all segregable portions of otherwise exempt material. I, of course, reserve the right to appeal your decision to withhold any information or to deny a waiver of fees.

I also ask that this request be expedited under terms of the Freedom of Information Act. Expedited processing is allowed for requests that show a “compelling need,” and ProPublica is primarily engaged in disseminating information, with an urgency to inform the public concerning federal government activity.

As the Act states, you have 10 days to decide whether to grant expedited processing.

ProPublica is a non-profit, investigative newsroom primarily engaged in disseminating information in the public interest. Since we began publishing in 2008, ProPublica has received six Pulitzer Prizes, eight George Polk Awards, and four Peabody Awards, among other recognitions of journalistic excellence. We publish content daily on our website, propublica.org. Our newsroom has been actively covering environmental issues, and in requesting these records, would primarily engage in disseminating information (i.e., reviewing and reporting on these records and sharing our findings with the public) where there is “an urgency to inform the public concerning actual or alleged Federal Government activity,” as the compelling need provision requires.

I certify that my statements concerning the need for expedited processing are true and correct to the best of my knowledge and belief.

I look forward to your reply, as the statute requires.

Thank you for your assistance.

Sincerely,

Sharon Lerner
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